

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the claims were grouped as follows: Group I, claims 1-16 and 42 to a conformationally flexible polymer; Group II, claims 17-19, said to be to a conformationally complex flexible polymer comprising an aromatic monomeric unit; Group III, claims 20-24, to a method of screening; Group IV, claims 25-31, to an assay method; Group V, claims 32-40, said to be to a kit for assaying; and Group VI, claim 41, said to be to a sensing complex. Restriction was made between the inventions.

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-16 and 42, and reserve the right to amend their process claims to depend on this group. Applicants note that they believe claims 36-39 should have been placed in Group IV rather than Group V. Applicants respectfully request examination of claims 17-19 with Group I, as these claims also relate to the polymer of Group I (comprising an aromatic monomeric unit). As Groups I and II share the polymer as a common feature, their examination together is not believed to pose an undue burden as the search will be overlapping.

Respectfully submitted,

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